# Nixon Murder Plot Is Hinted

## Slain Huk Carried Map, Homemade Pistol

By JOHN NANCE

MANILA (AP) — A homemade pistol and a rough sketch of a hotel to be visited by President Nixon were found on a man killed in a gun battle with police Saturday. They gave rise to speculation he may have been involved in a plot to assassinate the visiting American chief executive.

**Police said they had "no real evidence" there was such a plot, but "you could surmise that."**

Some speculation linked the plot to the Huk rebels, a Communist-led guerrilla movement.

Nixon stayed at the presidential palace but had scheduled a two-hour conference Saturday evening on the 12th floor of the Intercontinental Hotel in suburban Makati.

About 4 A.M. Saturday, long before Nixon reached Manila, police said a police patrol car approached a jeep with five men in it about 200 yards from the Intercontinental. The men opened fire and police fired back. One man fell dead into the street; the jeep escaped.

**On the body was the homemade .22-caliber pistol and a "very, very rough pencil sketch" of the hotel's ground floor. There also was a U.S. made hand grenade, believed to be a smoke grenade.**

Maj. Mike Cruz, chief of investigation of the Makati Police Department, said the 4-by-5-inch sketch had markings indicating possible positions around the hotel.

Cruz said also written on it was "July 26," "MIA" and "Mal." He said these could have meant the day Nixon was to arrive at Manila International Airport—MIA—and drive to the presidential palace, known here as Malacanang—Mal.

A police spokesman said the men could have been on a robbery or liquidation mission against anyone.

"There's nothing to link them with Nixon," he said, "but with him in town you could surmise it had to do with him."

**Cruz agreed and added that reports from the Philippine constabulary linked the dead man with an ideological arm of the Huks.**

The Huk movement, a powerful force after World War II, when it had some strong Communist leadership, has lately become associated with banditry.

Cruz said the dead man, Alberto Batac, 49, of Nueva Ecija Province, known as Huk country, was reported by the constabulary to be a member of a Huk liquidation squad that had come to Manila about a week ago.

"We only have sketchy reports so far," Cruz said. "That's what our investigation is concentrating on now."

Asked if the weapons Batac was carrying didn't seem rather skimpy for a crime of the magnitude possibly being considered, Cruz pointed out that four other men got away.

"They may have had the high-caliber stuff," he said.

There was speculation also that the gang may have been involved in a series of grenade incidents around U.S. and Vietnamese nstallations in the past week, but Cruz offered no evidence to connect them.

Asked about the reports, Nixon's press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said he had not heard the reports nor had the President been told of them.